

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 252

By Miller L

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jerry C. Johnson for 46 years of basketball coaching excellence.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those dedicated Tennesseans whose chosen vocation has been to coach collegiate athletic teams and to mold the character of young men and women through the discipline of organized sports; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable person is LeMoyne-Owen College Head Men's Basketball Coach, Jerry Johnson, who has amassed an impressive record in both regular and post season play; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johnson answered the tantalizing call of retirement upon the completion of the 2004-2005 season; and

WHEREAS, an All-American wide receiver and an All-SWAC basketball guard at Wiley College, Jerry Johnson graduated from Fayetteville State University; and

WHEREAS, coaching his entire forty-six year career at LeMoyne-Owen, Coach Johnson has amassed 820 wins against only 445 losses, and he has won four SIAC Division III crowns, a NCAA Division III Title in 1975, a SIAC Division II Championship in 2002, and four Volunteer State Athletic Conference Titles; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johnson has more wins than any active NCAA Division II coach, and he is the second winningest coach in Division II NCAA history and the sixth winningest coach in NCAA Basketball history; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Coach Johnson has won numerous awards and honors, including the Vanguard Club Achievement Award, the Tennessee State Legislators' Award for Coaching, the Outstanding Faculty Member Award, the Kodak Coach of the Year

Award, the Vanguard Club Coach of the Year Award, the Black College Legend Award, the John Thompson-Martin Luther King, Jr. Classic Coaches Award, and the "Simply the Best" Award presented by the Memphis Black Business Association; he also is a two-time SIAC Basketball Coach of the Year, a member of the Amateur Athletic Union, and a Fayetteville Hall of Fame Inductee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was taught the game of basketball by the legendary John McClendon who was taught by James Naismith, the inventor of basketball; and

WHEREAS, serving as a testament to his amazing abilities both as a coach and a mentor, Mr. Johnson has coached eight NBA draftees, seven collegiate coaches, four principals, four high school or junior high school coaches, city councilmen, business professionals, and the Mayor of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johnson has also contributed significantly to the civic life of the communities in which he has lived; he is a member of the Shriners and a thirty-third degree Mason; and

WHEREAS, evincing his deep commitment to community service, Mr. Johnson has served as a National Evaluator for the NCAA Sports Program, a Project Administrator for Orthopedically Handicapped Programs, and was the Director for the National Youth Sports Program for more than twenty years; he has also served on the Memphis Sports Authority and the Tennessee Governor's Advisory Council for Children with Disabilities, and he presently works with the YMCA and Boys Club of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jerry Johnson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he has served with great diligence and dexterity and has positively influenced the lives of many young people; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Coach Johnson for his numerous contributions to Tennessee collegiate athletics; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Jerry C. Johnson for his meritorious service as a

coach and mentor to Tennessee's youth, recognize him for his illustrious coaching career at LeMoyne-Owen College, and wish him every happiness in his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.